

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01306 290442Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 NEA-10 ACDA-07 EB-08
DHA-02 DPW-01 TRSE-00 /109 W
-----290736Z 018117/17

R 290245Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7411
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL SINGAPORE 1306

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SN, US
SUBJECT: COMMENTS BY SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER ON U.S. POLICY
TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA

1. I USED OCCASION OF MY IMPENDING DEPARTURE ON HOME
LEAVE AS EXCUSE TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER RAJARATNAM, AND AT MARCH 28 MEETING ASKED IF HE HAD
ANY PARTICULAR MESSAGE HE WOULD LIKE ME TO CARRY TO WASHINGTON.
RAJA TALKED IN NOW-FAMILIAR TERMS ABOUT HIS PERCEPTIONS OF
INCREASED SOVIET PRESENCE AND SUBVERSIVE EFFORT IN AREAS OF
INDIAN OCEAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND REITERATED NEED FOR
U.S. TO MAINTAIN ITS MILITARY POWER TO PROVIDE A BALANCE WITH
THE SOVIETS AND TO HELP OFFSET THEIR INFLUENCE. I THEN REFERRED
TO THE REITERATION OF U.S. COMMITMENTS EMBODIED IN THE
CARTER-FUKUDA JOINT COMMUNIQUEE, AND RAJA EXPRESSED SATIS-
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FACTION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF STATE-
MENTS ON THIS SUBJECT COULD BE MADE DIRECTLY BY SOME SENIOR
U.S. LEADER AS WELL AS INDIRECTLY THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF A
FOREIGN VISITOR.

2. RAJA EMPHASIZED THE DESIRABILITY OF A DIRECT U.S. SHOW OF
INTEREST REGARDING SOUTHEAST ASIA AND ADDED THAT IF, AS APPEARED

LIKELY, THE SRV WAS VOTED INTO THE U. N. AT THE NEXT GA, IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN OPINION - ASSUMING PHAM VAN DONG'S PRESENCE IN NEW YORK- FOR THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY TO MEET OR SHAKE HANDS WITH PHAM VAN DONG BEFORE MEETING WITH ANY OF THE ASEAN LEADERS. HE ASKED THAT I MAKE THIS POINT IN PARTICULAR WHILE IN WASHINGTON.

3. DURING THE CONVERSATION, I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF OUT-LINING FOR RAJA'S BENEFIT U.S. POLICY ON THE MUTUALITY OF ANY REDUCTION OF U.S. - SOVIET MILITARY FORCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (DEPTEL 64374) AND ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF OUR MOVES TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH HANOI (DEPTEL 66450). IN LATTER CASE, I STRESSED OUR DETERMINATION THAT SUCH MOVES WOULD NOT DETRACT FROM OUR CLOSE RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, AND WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO LESSENING OF REGIONAL TENSIONS. RAJA APPEARED SATISFIED WITH THESE POSITIONS.

4. APROPOS OF SINGAPORE'S OWN RELATIONS WITH HANOI, I RECALLED THAT FOLLOWING PHAN HIEN'S VISIT TO SINGAPORE LAST YEAR, RAJA HAD TOLD ME THAT A SRV DELEGATION WOULD VISIT SINGAPORE BEFORE THE END OF 1976 TO DISCUSS ESTABLISHMENT OF TRADE AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THIS GROUP AS FAR AS I KNEW HAD NEVER APPEARED, AND I WONDERED WHERE THE MATTER STOOD. RAJA DODGED THE QUESTION SOMEWHAT, REMARKING VAGUELY THAT A SINGAPORE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GROUP WOULD SHORTLY VISIT HANOI, BUT WENT ON TO SAY THAT "WE HAVE TOLD THEM THAT THE LEVEL OF THEIR PRE-SENCE DEPENDS ON THE INTENSITY OF OUR RELATIONS." BY WAY OF EXPLANATION, HE REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN SINGAPORE BEGAN WITH A TRADE OFFICE AND EXPANDED INTO AN

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EMBASSY AS TRADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION INCREASED. IN OTHER WORDS, IF HANOI WANTS FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SINGAPORE IT WILL HAVE TO JUSTIFY THEM VIA INCREASED TRADE.

5. I ASKED RAJA IF HE THOUGHT THAT SINGAPORE'S DRIVE AGAINST AN ANTI-PEOPLES ACTION PARTY "BLACK OPERATION" ALLEGEDLY LINKED WITH POLITICAL ELEMENTS IN MALAYSIA HAD CAUSED ANY PARTICULAR SINGAPORE-MALAYSIAN STRAINS. HE ADMITTED THAT SOME SHORT-TERM DIFFICULTIES MAY HAVE BEEN GENERATED, BUT FELT THAT THESE WOULD DISAPPEAR OVER A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME. ONE PROBLEM WHICH HE NOTED WAS THAT SOME ASPECTS OF SINGAPORE'S ANTI-LEFTIST OPERATIONS WERE BEING USED BY ELEMENTS WITHIN UMNO TO ATTACK OTHER ELEMENTS, ALL THIS AS PRELIMINARY MOVES IN THE 1978 UMNO ELECTIONS. RAJA GAVE THE STANDARD SINGAPORE EXCUSE FOR TAKING ON THE LEFTISTS HERE AND REVEALING THEIR MALAYSIAN CONNECTIONS: IT WAS NECESSARY TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE SITUATION, OTHERWISE KUALA LUMPUR WOULD TAKE NO ACTION.

6. MY MEETING WITH RAJA TOOK PLACE BEFORE I RECEIVED DEPTEL 066980

ON GENERAL EA POLICY GUIDANCE. I HAD ALREADY SENT RAJA UNDER COVER OF A PERSONAL LETTER COPIES OF HOLBROOKE TESTIMONY, THE PRESIDENT'S UN SPEECH, AND OAKLEY TESTIMONY REGARDING POLICY TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA. WE SENT THE CARTER-FUKUDA JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO HIM AS PART OF NORMAL DISTRIBUTION. (ALL OF THESE ALSO WENT TO PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW.) SOME HEADWAY IN GAINING SINGAPOREAN APPRECIATION OF BASIC TENETS OF U.S. POLICY HAS CLEARLY BEEN MADE, BUT WE WILL KEEP UP THE PRESSURES.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, BALANCE OF POWER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770106-1144
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770311/aaaaaiwh.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: COMMENTS BY SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA
TAGS: PFOR, SN, US, XC, UR
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Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0b8c01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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